

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03379 120652Z

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /030 W

-----055369 120656Z /15

R 120630Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8138

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3379

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, CE, UK

SUBJ: NEW SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM,  
NANEDIRI WIMALASENA

1. WIMALASENA, ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD AND A LAWYER, ENTERED LOCAL POLITICS IN 1946 WHEN HE ENTERED THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND WAS ELECTED DEPUTY MAYOR OF KANDY, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN SRI LANKA. IN 1963 HE WAS ELECTED MAYOR. HE WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM 1965 TO 1977, CHOOSING NOT TO RUN IN THE LAST ELECTION IN FAVOR OF A MORE RELAXED LIFE STYLE. HE DID, HOWEVER, WORK HARD FOR THE UNITED NATIONAL

PARTY'S CAMPAIGN. DURING THE DUDLEY SENANAYAKE GOVERNMENT, WIMALASENA WAS JUNIOR MINISTER OF FINANCE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

2. WIMALASENA HAS VISITED THE U.S. TWICE, ONCE IN 1965 ON A PARTIAL IVP IN CONNECTION WITH ATTENDANCE AT AN IVP CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA AND ONCE IN 1977 TO VISIT HIS DAUGHTER LIVING IN NEW MEXICO. HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF THE AMERICAN CENTER IN KANDY, AND IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDERED PRO-AMERICAN. HE IS SAID TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, J.R. JAYEWARDENE.

3. BOTH WIMALASENA AND HIS WIFE SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HER FAVORITE PASTIME IS SEWING AND EMBROIDERY; HIS READING. THEY ARE BOTH BUDDHIST, BUT HAVE NO KNOWN DIETARY RESTRICTIONS. HE IS A KEEN ROTARIAN AND WAS PRESIDENT OF THE KANDY

ROTARY CLUB IN 1963.  
WRIGGINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NEW SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, NANEDIRI WIMALASENA  
**TAGS:** PINR, CE, UK, (WIMALASENA, NANEDIRI)  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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